IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving a first utterance from ~~an intended talker~~ a speaker at an integrated speech and speaker recognition system;

generating a voice characteristic model for the ~~intended talker~~ speaker;

receiving a second utterance from the ~~intended talker~~ speaker at the speaker recognition system;

processing a portion of speech associated with the second utterance, wherein processing comprises,

computing a speaker verification score based on the voice characteristic model associated with the portion of speech,

computing a speech recognition score associated with the portion of speech, and

generating a combined score by combining the speaker verification score and the speech recognition score; and

selecting a best hypothesis from a plurality of hypotheses representing automatic speech recognition results of the second utterance, based upon the combined score.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the portion of speech includes a word, a sentence, a syllable, or a frame.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said processing further comprises altering a search path in a Viterbi search used by a speech recognizer.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising using hotword speech recognition to identify the ~~intended talker~~ speaker.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the voice characteristic model includes a voice print, a personal profile and linguistic characteristics.

7. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

   a speech system; and

   a speech input device connected to the speech system; wherein the speech system comprises,

   a voice server, wherein the server includes an integrated speech and speaker recognizer that,

   receives a first utterance from ~~an intended talker~~ a speaker via the speech input device;

creates a voice characteristic model for the ~~intended talker~~ <u>speaker</u>;

receives a second utterance from the ~~intended talker~~ <u>speaker</u> via the speech input device;

processes a portion of speech associated with the second utterance, wherein the processor

computes a speaker verification score based on the voice characteristic model associated with the portion of speech,

computes a speech recognition score associated with the portion of speech, and

generates a combined score by combining the speaker verification score and the speech recognition score; and

selects a best hypothesis from a plurality of hypotheses representing automatic speech recognition results of the second utterance, based upon the combined score.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the speech input device comprises a cellular telephone, an analog telephone, a digital telephone, and a voice over internet protocol device.

9. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the portion of speech includes a word, a sentence, a syllable, or a frame.

10. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the server is further configured to alter a search path in a Viterbi search used by a speech recognizer.

11. (Currently amended) An integrated speech and speaker recognition system comprising:

> means for receiving a first utterance from ~~the intended talker~~ a speaker;

> means for generating a voice characteristic model for the ~~intended talker~~ speaker;

> means for receiving a second utterance from the ~~intended talker~~ speaker at the speaker recognition system;

> means for processing a portion of speech associated with the second utterance, wherein said means for processing comprises,

>> means for computing a speaker verification score based on the voice characteristic model associated with the portion of speech,

>> means for computing a speech recognition score associated with the portion of speech, and

>> means for generating a combined score by combining the speaker verification score and the speech recognition score; and

means for selecting a best hypothesis from a plurality of hypotheses representing automatic speech recognition results of the second utterance, based upon the combined score.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the portion of speech includes a word, a sentence, a syllable, or a frame.

13. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the means for processing further comprises means for altering a search path in a Viterbi search used by a speech recognizer on the second utterance.

14. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11, further comprising means for using hotword speech recognition to identify the ~~intended talker~~ speaker.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the voice characteristic model includes a voice print, a personal profile and linguistic characteristics.

17. (Currently amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions which, ~~said plurality of instructions~~ when executed by a machine, cause said machine to perform a process comprising:

receiving a first utterance from ~~the intended talker~~ a speaker at an integrated speech and speaker recognition system;

generating a voice characteristic model for the ~~intended talker~~ <u>speaker</u>;

receiving a second utterance from the ~~intended talker~~ <u>speaker</u> at the speaker recognition system;

processing a portion of speech associated with the second utterance, wherein processing comprises,

computing a speaker verification score based on the voice characteristic model associated with the portion of speech,

computing a speech recognition score associated with the portion of speech, and

generating a combined score by combining the speaker verification score and the speech recognition score; and

selecting a best hypothesis from a plurality of hypotheses representing automatic speech recognition results of the second utterance, based upon the combined score.

18. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 17 wherein the portion of speech includes a word, a sentence, a syllable, or a frame.

19. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 17, having stored thereon additional instructions when processing a portion of speech, said additional instructions when executed by a machine, cause said machine to perform altering a search path in a Viterbi search used by a speech recognizer.

20. (Currently amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 17, having stored thereon additional instructions ~~when~~ which, when executed by the machine while identifying a ~~intended talker~~ speaker, ~~said additional instructions when executed by a machine,~~ cause said machine to ~~perform using~~ use hotword speech recognition to identify the ~~intended talker~~ speaker.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the voice characteristic model includes a voice print, a personal profile and linguistic characteristics.

23. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving an utterance from ~~an intended talker~~ a speaker at a speech recognition system;

computing a speaker verification score based on a voice characteristic model associated and with the utterance;

computing a speech recognition score associated with the utterance; and

selecting a best hypothesis from a plurality of hypotheses representing automatic speech recognition results of the utterance, based on both the speaker verification score and the speech recognition score.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the voice characteristic model is obtained from a voice model database.

25. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the voice characteristic model is obtained from a first portion of the utterance.

26. (Currently amended) A speech recognition system comprising:

a speaker verifier;

a speech recognizer connected to the speaker verifier; and

an input device connected to the speaker verifier and speech recognizer, wherein the input device receives an utterance from ~~an intended talker~~ a speaker; and

wherein the speech recognizer generates a recognition score associated with the utterance and generates a plurality of hypotheses representing automatic speech recognition results of the utterance, the speaker verifier generates a speaker verification score associated with the utterance; and the recognition score is combined with the verification score to select a best hypothesis of the plurality of hypotheses.

27. (Original) The speech recognition system of claim 26, wherein the speech recognizer and speaker verifier are software entities residing on a speech server, and wherein the speech server comprises a processor, a bus connected to the processor, and memory connected to the bus that stores the software entities.

28. (Currently amended) The speech recognition system of claim 27, further comprising a database connected to the speech server, wherein the database stores a voice characteristic model of the ~~intended talker~~ <u>speaker</u>.